

THE CARGO COURIER

123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.

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ABOVE: Senior Airman Shelley Kruse, a medical services technician in the 123rd Medical Squadron, applies bandages to a simulated leg injury during October's accident response exercise in Jefferson Memorial Forest.

RIGHT: Firefighters from the Shepherdsville Fire Department and 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron prepare to move an accident 'victim' onto a stretcher.



*KyANG photos by
Tech. Sgt.
Charles Simpson*

Exercise tests unit's disaster response

**By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer**

Training for combat is inherently dangerous — especially when you're airborne.

At some point in the future, somewhere around the world, an Air Force or Air National Guard plane will suffer a catastrophic accident, and people will be injured.

Exacting maintenance standards and top-notch pilot training are the first line of defense against such an incident, but even the best equipment can fail. And when that happens, Air National Guard units need to have crisis teams ready for duty.

"We have to be prepared for an accident," said Senior Master Sgt. Glenn Farquhar, NCOIC of the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron's Readiness Flight. "Aircraft from all over the country fly assault landings at Fort Knox, and that's a hazardous thing to do, so we must be able to respond to any kind of incident."

That ability was put to the test during October's drill when more than 40 Guard members from 14 KyANG units joined with about 60 civilian firefighters and medics for a major accident response exercise in southern Jefferson County.

The scenario involved the crash of a Kentucky Air Guard C-130 in Jefferson Memorial Forest, resulting in 15 injuries and moderate property damage. Three area fire departments — Shepherdsville, Zoneton and Camp Taylor — elected to participate in the exercise, as did Jefferson County Emergency Medical Services.

Farquhar said their participation was crucial to the exercise's success.

See EXERCISE, Page 5

Season gives us pause to offer thanks and reflect upon year of accomplishments

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s the holiday season approaches, it is fitting to reflect on the past year and think about what we did well and what we need to work on.

When I do that, I always come up with a long list of things that we did well and a relatively short list of those we didn't do so well.

I think about how great it is to be associated with such a fine group of people and all of the things that I have to be thankful for.

Among these:

- An Air National Guard that is fully integrated into the total force and is respected for the awesome power that it possesses
- All of those dedicated Guardsmen who have served in this unit over the years and made it great
- More than 30,000 hours of accident-free flying
- 12 modern C-130 aircraft
- Beautiful, efficient and convenient facilities
- Flyers who do things right and are intolerant of those who don't
- Fixers who are uncompromising in their efforts to provide safe, mission-capable aircraft
- Cops and firefighters who are forever vigilant in their efforts to protect life and property
- Engineers who are willing to put up with almost anything in order to build a future for less fortunate people all over the world
- Administrators who ensure that our folks



Col. Michael L. Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

are paid, promoted and awarded for what they do

- Services folks who feed us, house us and make sure that we have the recreational facilities to help us maintain our readiness
- Special Tactics folks and Combat Communicators who possess special skills and the willingness to use them
- Aerial Porters who have lived with primitive conditions yet maintain extreme professionalism and sense of purpose
- Command and Control folks who will do anything necessary to get the job done

•Planners who tirelessly ensure that no detail is overlooked and that our folks arrive ready to go to war

•All of our folks who consistently say "yes" when asked to give their time and support our numerous deployments and contingency missions

•All of our folks who quietly stay home to take care of the day-to-day business and support those who deploy

•NCOs who take charge and make things happen

•Officers who constantly strive to better themselves and their units

•Commanders who support our vision and take care of their folks

•Airmen who respond.

This is truly a special unit with special people. The way that we performed our mission this past year, and the awards that we have won, prove that we are special.

We have great aircraft and great facilities but even better people.

So I am most thankful that I have the honor to be the commander of a unit made up of such special people.

I wish each of you a joyous and safe holiday season.

Take pride in what you have accomplished. I look forward to working with each of you for another great year.

—Thanks Loads,

Michael L. Harden

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If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the public affairs office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is Dec. 16.

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Clamshell COOKOUT

Master Sgt. Mike Nagel, Staff Sgt. Kelley Blair and Staff Sgt. Aaron Cook of the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron grill bratwurst for a cookout held in the clamshell hangar following October's drill.

*KyANG photo by
Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson*

Deadline nears for scholarship applications

The deadline to submit applications for the Kentucky National Guard Historical Foundation's Scholarship Program is less than a month away.

Dependent children of current and retired Kentucky Air Guard members are eligible for the scholarship, as are children of deceased Guard members.

For more information, contact the foundation in Frankfort at (502) 564-7500. You also may call toll-free in Kentucky by dialing (800) 251-2333.

Applications should be mailed to KNGHF, 1111 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Ky., 40601-6118 and must be postmarked by Dec. 31.

Base Honor Guard wants you

**By Staff Sgt. David I. Tors
Cargo Courier Staff Writer**

If you like the idea of a prestigious, challenging and rewarding additional duty, the Honor Guard may have just what you're looking for.

The team of 11 crack airmen specializes in precision drill work, representing the Air Force at military functions like parades and conferences and handling ceremonial duties at retirement services and funerals.

It's a job that Tech. Sgt. Mary Decker finds personally rewarding, especially when the KyANG team is called upon to pay its respects to former members of the armed services during funerals.

"I have a lot of pride in the military and the Honor Guard," said Decker, who also served on the Strategic Air Command's Elite Honor Guard while stationed at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. "The veterans who came before us need to be rewarded and recognized for their service to our country. I believe it is the utmost honor to be in this program and take care of our fallen comrades."

In addition to personal satisfaction, the Honor Guard offers a few fringe benefits, like specialized uniforms and the opportunity to travel.

"I recently went to Washington, D.C., for a week for the retirement of the Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Air National Guard," said Staff Sgt. Raymond Johnson, NCOIC of the wing's Honor Guard.

"It was real nice. I had the opportunity to interact with active duty Honor Guard Squadrons. They were sharp — real sharp. That's what I'm trying to accomplish here."

To do that, however, Johnson said he needs at least 20 more volunteers, which will allow the team to assume more responsibilities and take some of the workload off an already overburdened Honor Guard detail at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

"They are being tasked heavily with Honor Guard duties and are requesting our assistance," Johnson said.

Anyone interested in joining the Honor Guard should contact Johnson at extension 4477 or Decker at extension 4120. ☎

Get perpendicular

Give the gift of warmth this season

Near Rome, Ga., there is a college known as Berry School, which was founded by Martha Berry for young people in the Appalachian area.

It has the largest campus in America, with farms and factories where students work to pay their way through school.

Rising from the center of a barn roof on this campus is a kind of spire usually seen on churches.

Martha Berry ordered her architect to put the spire on the barn as though the structure were a church.

The architect asked why, and she explained that it would allow students to look up while they were working in the fields or the barnyard as part of their worship. It gave them a "perpendicular" dimension to their lives.

Your chaplain staff not only wishes you a jolly holiday season, but also a perpen-

dicular one focused on the reason for the season: the giving and sharing of love.

During this UTA, the base chapel will collect winter clothing for the homeless in the Louisville area. Look through your closets and bring any extra coats, sweaters, warm socks or gloves to the chaplain's of-

fice or the clamshell hangar.

Louisville has about 5,000 homeless people during the winter months, many of whom suffer from mental illness

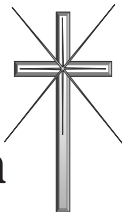
and have no family or in-

stitution to house them. Your contribution can have a big impact on their lives and really make it a season to be jolly and warm.

What a wonderful way to share your love with others and remember the real focus of this holiday season!

—Chaplain Charles Smith

Chaplain's Column



Regular exercise offers more than just simple weight loss

By Staff Sgt. Kristin Soldner
123rd Medical Squadron

Some Guard members dread the month of October because it always brings with it our annual weigh-in requirement. Others, however, don't think twice about having to step on the scale.

So a few Guard members probably left the scale thinking, "I guess I need to exercise," while others may have told themselves, "I 'made weight.' I don't need to exercise."

The truth is: Both members should exercise, but not necessarily for weight loss. Exercise has much more to offer than a way to burn calories, including the potential to

- Reduce high blood pressure or the risk of developing it

- Reduce high cholesterol or the risk of developing it

- Reduce the risk of developing colon and breast cancer

- Reduce the risk of developing diabetes

- Reduce depression, anxiety and stress

- Reduce the risk of premature death

- Prevent osteoporosis, strokes and back injuries

- Relieve arthritis pain and swelling of the joints

- Improve self-esteem, confidence and psychological well-being

- Increase HDL ("good") cholesterol

The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports recommends that all adults perform at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity every day. Do you have 30 minutes a day to improve your health?

Soldner is a certified personal trainer.

Wing deploys aircrew for hurricane relief

An aircrew from the 123rd Airlift Wing deployed to Gulfport, Miss., last month as part of humanitarian relief efforts to aid victims of Hurricane Mitch.

The Guard members transported fuel to Sotocano Air Base in northwestern Honduras under the direction of the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command.

1999 UTA dates announced

Next year's unit training assembly dates for the Kentucky Air National Guard:

January	9-10
February	6-7
March	13-14
April	10-11
May	15-16
June	5-6
July	10-11
August	28-29
September	11-12
October	16-17
November	6-7
December	4-5

KyANG history book nearing completion

The book detailing the rich history of the Kentucky Air National Guard is nearing completion and will be sent to press as soon as the publisher can complete fund-raising efforts that will subsidize printing costs.

The subsidies are necessary because the number of books that were pre-sold to Guard members and retirees is insufficient to cover printing and distribution costs.

To purchase a copy of the book, call Turner Publishing Co. at (502) 443-0121. ☎

Exercise

Continued from Page 1

"We have to get to know our counterparts in the civilian world," he said. "The first responders to a remote site like this will probably be civilian agencies, and we have to know how each of us operates. They might have a different way of doing things — they may even use a different terminology, and we need to speak the same language."

Maj. Randy Vincent of the Zoneton Fire Department agreed.

"We hadn't really worked with you guys yet, and we needed to see how you guys set things up and how the military functions," Vincent said.

"Any training when you get multiple agencies involved is going to be good because there is always something that comes out of it that we need to turn around and make better. We were kind of in the dark about our responsibilities in the beginning, but once we got the wheels turning, everything started rolling."

Master Sgt. Danny Brooks, the wing's deputy fire chief, said the civilian agencies added a dose of realism to the exercise that helped reveal weaknesses in the wing's plan.

"One of the known factors about disasters is that the first thing that fails is communications," Brooks said. "And until you exercise those communications channels, you really don't find your problem areas."

"For instance, we know that our radios don't talk to all those other fire departments and ambulances. Through this exercise, we learned how to overcome that by having agency reps at the command post to aid multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional control."

"So the exercise helped us identify problem areas, but it also let us know that we do have a viable system that will work."

A similar exercise was held on base last year, but Brooks said the remote location of this year's scenario presented new challenges.

"We had to provide support for our people — food, water, transportation — so it gave us a chance to exercise those support functions that you wouldn't normally need if the exercise were held on base."

The off-base exercise also presented some surprises, as well.

"We were waiting on civilian ambulances to arrive at the scene, but they were caught by a train and couldn't cross the tracks,"



ABOVE: Firefighters from the Shepherdsville Fire Department and 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron load a 'victim' onto an ambulance for transport to an area hospital.

Brooks said.

"Those are real things that can happen to you, and you just have to learn to cope with them."

Unforeseen obstacles like that make readiness exercises crucial to preparedness, Vincent said.

"We can sit down and plan everything on paper, but when the day actually comes that you have to do it for real, if you haven't physically trained for it and experienced some of these things, then you're really not going to be ready."



Staff Sgt. J.R. Rogers (ABOVE) and Senior Airman Holli Olson (LEFT) of the 123rd Medical Squadron administer first aid to the 'wounded.' Many of the simulated victims were volunteers who are members of Explorer Post 911.



First flight

The Kentucky Air Guard's Lt. Lou Sheu stands ready for duty outside what once was the 165th Fighter Squadron Operations Building. The structure was located on the grounds of the old Bremner Biscuit Co.

*Photo KyANG
Historical Archive*



Holiday gifts included new base — in 1956

By Tech. Sgt. John R. Martin
123rd Airlift Wing Historian

The Kentucky Air Guard now has some of the finest facilities in the country, but our "old base" once was considered first-class, too.

On Dec. 18, 1956, a bid was awarded to the Robert Simmons Construction Co. to relocate the KyANG's first Louisville facility to a new 51-acre tract, just off Grade Lane and south of the airport.

The construction included a new hangar, parking ramp, supply building, motor pool, crash house, and fuel and ammunition facilities.

These structures comprised the foundation of the base from which we moved three years ago, and they served the unit well for nearly three decades.

Those 30 years saw the Kentucky Air Guard participate in many crucial missions, including the unit's activation for the Pueblo Crisis in the late 1960s.

It was in December of 1969 that Wing and Group Commanders Brig. Gen. Jack Owen and Col. Lawrence Quebbemen found themselves as guests of honor at the White House to meet President Richard Nixon.

The President wanted to greet the two Kentucky Guardsmen and personally extend his thanks for the unit's performance during the crisis, which was precipitated when North Korean gunboats captured a U.S. Navy vessel off the Korean coastline.

One of our unit's many firsts occurred on Dec. 7, 1971, when Gov. Wendell Ford named Richard Frymire of Madisonville as State Adjutant General — the first air guardsman to hold the position.

In December 1974, a wing reorganization resulted in the creation of the 123rd Group Headquarters and the Combat Support Squadron, both under the National Guard Bureau.

This move also allowed for the creation of two deputy commanders for both operations and logistics, with Lt. Col. Carl Black and Col. William P. Gast, respectively, being named to head those positions.

Other important dates in Air Force and Air National Guard history:

- Dec. 2, 1861 — our highest award for conspicuous gallantry, the Medal of Honor, was created by order of President

Abraham Lincoln.

- Dec. 1, 1959 — The first airmen assumed the top enlisted rank of chief master sergeant.

- Dec. 17, 1969 — The C-5 Galaxy entered operational service with the Military Airlift Command.

- Dec. 17, 1963 — The C-141A Starlifter took to the air for the first time at Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga.

- Dec. 18, 1974 — President Gerald Ford signed a law removing congressional restrictions on command, lifting the requirement that only pilots command flying units.

- Dec. 28, 1988 — The first operational dual-role (air superiority and deep interdiction) McDonnell Douglas F-15E fighter was delivered to the Air Force.

Trivia from July: What is the significance of a 21-gun salute?

Answer: Add together each number in the year of our nation's birth (1776). The sum is 21, hence the 21-gun salute.

Question for January: When approaching someone who is wearing a Medal of Honor, what is the proper greeting?

Look for the answer in the next Retrospect.

Visa cards now active for duty-related travel

Air Force Print News Service

WASHINGTON — NationsBank has completed the process of mailing Visa charge cards to Air Force and Air National Guard members, and the new cards are now active for all reimbursable travel expenses.

Anyone who had an American Express account that was not suspended or canceled should have received a new Visa card in the mail, said Michael Weber, program manager for the Air Force travel card program.

All American Express cards were deactivated Nov. 29 and can no longer be used for travel expenses. The cards do not have to be returned to the company but should be cut up and destroyed, Weber said.

To activate their new Visa cards, recipients must call NationsBank at (800) 311-7810 and enter the requested information using their telephone keypads.

"Each cardholder must also read, sign and mail back the cardholder agreement in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided

in the new card packet," Weber said.

Automated teller machine personal identification numbers have been mailed separately and may be personalized by calling the number on the back of the card.

People who never had an American Express card or whose card was canceled must apply for the Visa card at the base finance office.

Two kinds of Visa cards were issued — standard and restricted. Those in good standing with American Express received a standard card, which has a credit limit of \$5,000, an ATM cash limit of \$500 and a retail limit of \$250.

American Express cardholders who were delinquent but not suspended as of Aug. 1 received a restricted card with a credit limit of \$1,250, an ATM cash limit of \$250 and a retail limit of \$100.

The new ATM limits are lower than those permitted under the American Express program, but Weber noted that Visa cards are more widely accepted by merchants than

American Express.

Weber cautioned cardholders to use their new Visas with discretion.

"Remember, this card works just like an American Express charge card and is intended for official travel only. Cardholders should only charge reimbursable travel expenses to the card."

Fees for the new card program:

- 1.9 percent ATM charge
- \$20 returned personal check charge
- \$20 fee per billing cycle for accounts that are more than 120 days delinquent
- 25 percent of any delinquent amount if an account is turned over to a collection agency

NationsBank will use the third day of each month as the cut-off date for all Air Force travelers' billing cycles.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Barb Swann at extension 4774.

F-22 Raptor breaks sound barrier

America's new fighter aircraft, the F-22 Raptor, passed a crucial milestone Oct. 10 when an early production sample broke the sound barrier during testing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

During that first supersonic flight, Lockheed Martin test pilot Jon Beesley pushed the Raptor to a speed of 1.1 Mach without afterburner at an altitude of 29,000 feet.

Since then, the F-22 has accomplished flight at 1.4 Mach without afterburner.

"The F-22 System Program Office is pleased with flight-test progress to date," said Jon Ogg, the Air Force's chief engineer for the F-22 program office at Edwards.

"The entire F-22 team has pulled together and the test program is on track."

Shelton: Pay gap real; fix needed

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — While experts can argue about its size, a pay gap exists and the Department of Defense will start closing it in the next budget cycle, the nation's top military leader said.

Army Gen. Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was responding to newspaper reports quoting a Rand Corp. paper implying there was no gap between military and civilian-sector pay. On the contrary, DOD officials said, the gap is 8.5 percent to 13.5 percent depending on the year used as a baseline.

Shelton said DOD is committed to re-vamping the entire military compensation package in its fiscal 2000 budget to include retirement and military pay tables.

"The president has indicated ... he wanted the secretary (of defense, William S. Cohen) and (me) to work with the Joint Chiefs to look at the entire entitlements package and come back to him with where we felt we needed to go," he said.

In the past, military pay has been loosely tied to federal civilian employees' pay raises.

By law, civilian raises are keyed to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Index minus 1/2 a percentage point. The ECI measures the growth of private-sector wages and salaries.

To address the pay gap, defense officials said, military raises must match the full ECI level. The fiscal 2000 pay raise is set for 4.4 percent. The ECI for fiscal 2000 is estimated at 4.3 percent. Pay raises for the Future Years Defense Plan are now set at 3.9 percent.

Officials said the pay gap is not large for junior enlisted members or junior officers, but it widens appreciably for mid-range and senior noncommissioned officers and officers.

"It can be as much as 20 percent for some specialties and pay grades," a Joint Staff official said.

Officials also said they are working on a retirement package.

They said service members think Redux, the plan where retirees receive 40 percent of base pay after 20 years' service, is not a career incentive.

Proposed changes include a modified 401 (k) or thrift savings plan.



Retirements

Clockwise from top left: Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild presents Lt. Col. Patricia Horsey of the 123rd Medical Squadron with her Certificate of Retirement.



Col. Michael Harden awards the Meritorious Service Medal to Lt. Col. Steven Burns of the 123rd Airlift Wing in recognition of his dedicated career.



Maj. Ed White, assistant commander of the 123rd Civil Engineering Squadron, receives an MSM certificate from Lt. Col. Tom Marks during his final UTA.



Col. Harden helps Chief Master Sgt. John Logsdon showcase one of his retirement mementos.

Promotions and honors in the KyANG



The following servicemembers have been promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as reservists of the United States Air Force:

TO AIRMAN (E-2)

•Ryan Russel,
123rd Student Flt.

•Heather Allen,
205th Combat Communications Sq.

TO AIRMAN 1ST CLASS (E-3)

•Scott Benningfield,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

•Walter Crosby Jr.,
123rd Security Forces Sq.

•Jonathan Coulter,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

•Kevin Dean,
123rd Security Forces Sq.

•Andrew Fowler,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

•Virgil Gipson,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

•Samuel Rose Jr.,
123rd Civil Engineering Sq.

•Charles Wilding,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

•Craig Wiseman,
123rd Civil Engineering Sq.

TO STAFF SGT. (E-5)

•Ian Auch,
205th Combat Communications Sq.

•Larry Daugherty Jr.,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

•Carl Shaffer,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

•Matthew Stearn,
123rd Special Tactics Flt.

•Kerry Wentworth,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

TO TECH. SGT. (E-6)

•Cedric Jones,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

•Rondall Maddox Jr.,
123rd Logistics Sq.

•Alan McDaniel,
123rd Maintenance Sq.

•Michael Payne,
165th Airlift Sq.

TO MASTER SGT. (E-7)

•Mark Ferris,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

•Charles Jones,
123rd Civil Engineering Sq.

•David Jones Sr.,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

•Donald Overstreet,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

TO MAJOR (O-4)

•Connie Allen,
123rd Civil Engineering Sq.

•Marsha Beecham,
123rd Airlift Wing

TO LT. COL. (O-5)

•David Granstrom,
123rd Medical Sq.